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AUGUST 2015

Circuit Judge Gordon Graham Announces Retirement



Circuit Judge Gordon Graham recently announced that he will be retiring effective September 7, 2015.

Judge Graham received his bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University in 1970 and his Juris Doctor from John Marshall Law School in 1977. Upon graduating from law school, Judge Graham

moved to McHenry County and embarked on his legal career. As an attorney, Judge Graham developed a reputation for being honest and well-respected. He was appointed to the bench as an Associate Circuit Judge in McHenry County in 1996 and during his thirteen years as an Associate Judge presided over a wide

range of cases, including felony trials, misdemeanor jury trials, domestic violence cases, and family law matters.

Judge Graham was sworn in as a Circuit Judge on December 6, 2010.

Judge Graham also served as a judicial liaison for the McHenry County Domestic Violence Counsel, seeking justice for the victims of domestic violence in our community.

Judge Graham will continue to serve in the courtroom until his retirement becomes effective, currently hearing traffic cases, just as he did at the beginning of his career.

The 22nd Judicial Circuit would like to thank Judge Graham for his hard work and dedication, not only to the court, but to the citizens of McHenry County.

In his retirement, Judge Graham will be spending as much of his time as he can sailing. Congratulations Judge Graham.

Judge Michael Sullivan re-elected Chief Judge



At a recent meeting of the Circuit Judges of the Circuit Court of the 22nd Judicial Circuit, Circuit Judge Michael J. Sullivan was reappointed as the Chief Judge of the Circuit. Judge Sullivan has been the Chief Judge since 2006 when McHenry County became its own circuit.

The Chief Judge is responsible for the overall administrative duties of the court, including: judicial assignments, hours of operation of the court, fiscal management and court personnel. Judge Sullivan was born on June 26, 1941, in Chicago, Illinois, and has lived

most of his life in the Chicago suburbs in Kane and McHenry County. He attended Marmion Military Academy in Aurora, Illinois. He received his B.A. degree in political science, magna cum laude, from Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa, in 1963, and received his Juris Doctorate degree from the Notre Dame Law School in 1966.

Judge Sullivan has served as a judicial officer in Illinois for almost 39 years. He was appointed as an Associate Judge of the 19th Judicial Circuit on December 6, 1976. He was elected as a Resident Circuit Judge in McHenry County in

1984, an office that he has served to this date. Judge Sullivan also served as Presiding Judge in McHenry County during the period of time from 1992 through 2002, while McHenry County was part of the 19th Judicial Circuit with Lake County.

Judge Sullivan is very active with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and the Illinois Supreme Court. Presently he serves as the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Conference of Chief Circuit Judges on Article V of the Illinois Supreme Court Rules.

Judge James S. Cowlin Appointed Circuit Judge



On July 7, 2015, the Illinois Supreme Court announced that effective on September 8, 2015, the Honorable James S. Cowlin, Associate Judge of the 22nd Judicial Circuit is appointed to Resident Circuit Judge of McHenry County. Judge Gordon Graham's recently announced retirement effective September 7, 2015, created the vacancy for which Judge Cowlin has been appointed.

Judge Cowlin is a lifelong resident of McHenry County and has a distinguished family history in the legal community. Judge Cowlin's grandfather, Henry L. Cowlin, served as a McHenry County Judge from 1936-

1958, and his father, also Henry L. Cowlin, served as a Circuit Judge in the former 19th Circuit of McHenry and Lake Counties from 1978-1996.

Judge James Cowlin graduated from Crystal Lake Community High School and attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he completed his Bachelors of Arts degree in political science in 1979. Judge Cowlin then received his Juris Doctor from Valparaiso University School of Law in 1982.

Prior to being appointed Associate Judge in the 22nd Judicial Circuit, Judge Cowlin practiced law in McHenry County with the

Law Office of Donald W. Truckenbrod, Truckenbrod & Cowlin, and Cowlin & Cowlin law firms.

Judge Cowlin was appointed to the position of Associate Judge in 2007 and was reappointed by the Circuit Judges of the 22nd Judicial Circuit in 2011 and 2015. During his tenure as Associate Judge, Judge Cowlin has presided over Misdemeanor Jury cases, Family Law cases, Mortgage Foreclosures and other Civil matters, as well as Traffic and Misdemeanor cases. Judge Cowlin is a member of the Illinois Judges Association, Illinois State Bar Association and the McHenry County Bar Association.

Judge Chmiel Receives Award



Judge Michael J. Chmiel was bestowed the Board of Gover-

nors Award from the Illinois State Bar Association. According to the ISBA, "[t]he award recognized Judge Chmiel for his long-standing and exemplary contributions to the association and the legal profession."

Judge Chmiel, as a member and chairman of the ISBA's Committee on Law Related Education for the Public, contributed to the success of the ISBA's High School Mock Trial Invitational. He also contributed to

the "Bringing the Courtroom to the Classroom" program with the ISBA and the Illinois Judges Association.

"What we hope to do, through all of this, is to continue to educate the public on civics and the court system in Illinois," Judge Chmiel said.

We thank Judge Chmiel for his efforts!

Congratulations

Mandatory Arbitration's New Administrator — Agnes Pena



On July 13, 2015, Agnes Pena began a new adventure as the Arbitration Administrator for the 22nd Judicial Circuit.

Agnes began working for the Court in April, 2011 for the Jury Commission and in April, 2012 transferred to Court Administration.

Agnes immigrated to the United States when she was 4 years old with her parents from Poland and

grew up in Chicago. Agnes and her family moved to McHenry County when she was 7 and attended Woodstock District 200 for her elementary education and graduated from Marian Central Catholic High School.

Agnes attended DePaul University and completed a Bachelor's Degree in English. In addition, she has attended Elgin Community College Paralegal Studies and is contemplating obtaining her Masters Degree.

Arbitration is mandatory for civil cases seeking money damages between \$5,000-\$50,000. Cases eligible for arbitration proceed in Court along an expedited track, with an arbitration hearing date four to six months from the date the case is

filed. A panel of three arbitrators conducts the arbitration hearing. Arbitrators are selected on a random, rotating basis from a list of retired judges or attorneys who have attended training. The arbitration panel conducts a hearing, allowing the parties to present all facts, evidence, and law, before rendering an award. The arbitration award is not binding for thirty days, during which time any party present at the arbitration hearing may "reject" the award, pay a rejection fee, and then proceed to a trial before a judge or jury.

Agnes will be responsible for the coordination of hearings and arbitrators.

Agnes is very excited to face her new challenges and responsibilities.

information technology

Court receives e-Record approval for the Illinois Supreme Court

The Court, in conjunction with the Office of the Circuit Clerk, has received approval from the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and the Illinois Supreme Court for E-Record.

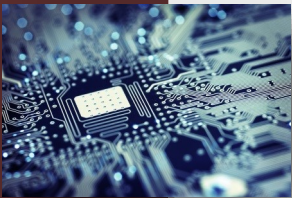
This is a testament to Circuit Court Clerk Kathy Keefe, Circuit Clerk staff and the Court.

E-Record will allow the Court to utilize electronic

document images as the "official record" of the Court. The impact of this initiative will be profound. Savings from storage costs, files, and personnel could reach into the millions over the course of a decade.

While approval has been granted the conversion to an entirely electronic system will be done deliberately over the next several years.

As part of the Supreme Court's standards to be approved for E-Record status, the Court must have the resources available to allow members of the judiciary to perform their tasks efficiently. In November of last year, the Court launched a technology project to implement Mentis Technology's aiSmartBench.



aiSmartBench Project Continues

The Court, with the assistance of the Circuit Clerk of the Court and the McHenry County Information Technology Department continue to make progress on the implementation of Mentis Technology's aiSmartBench application.

This system will be integrated with the Clerk of the Courts case management system, iJustice, and OnBase, the County's document imaging

software. aiSmartBench will allow judges to see information on cases in the manner that is most advantageous to them and will assist greatly with the E-Record initiative.

Presently the Court is close to having a functional test environment utilizing local data. In addition, all parties are currently working on the integration with OnBase.

aiSmartBench will

further enhance the judges' available resources by enabling more efficient and reliable access to relevant data to conduct and monitor their individual caseload. Additionally, aiSmartBench provides for full text search capabilities. It also provides a separate electronic space for the judges to create notations not maintained as part of the official court record.



Court Services next Evidenced Based Practice—

Walt Pesterfield



The Department of Probation and Court Services is seeking to enter into a contract with Core Correctional Solutions, LLC, for specialized training and consulting services in order to implement evidence based behavioral intervention strategies which will enhance the other evidence based practices already in place. Further these practices will build upon the remarkable foundation set by the hard work and dedication of the current and past Probation and Court Services employees. The strategies would be utilized by probation officers for individuals who have been convicted of a criminal violation and sentenced to a term of probation.

Integrated Behavioral Intervention Strategies (IBIS) consists of a set of supervision techniques that probation officers can use daily in their interaction with clients. This program is the integration of two evidence based correctional approaches: motivational interviewing and effective practices in community supervision. The IBIS skills help probation officers develop rapport, increase motivation to change, provide intentional interventions aimed at

changing offender behavior, and identifying and addressing skill deficits. IBIS represents a collaborative and individualized evidence-based approach to target current factors that put the client at risk for future criminal behavior. These skills can be implemented for both adult and juvenile criminal offenders.

Integrated Behavioral Intervention Strategies is the most advanced training for probation officers available. The skills provide officers with the tools necessary to assist in behavior change of criminal offenders. The implementation of the skills will decrease recidivism, and increase motivation for behavioral change in effort to rehabilitate people into pro social productive citizens in our society. Further, we have an outstanding work force in The Probation Court Services Department and our goal is to have the best outcomes in the State of Illinois, which equals a safer place to live for our citizens. We are excited to be leaders in the State of Illinois and bring the most advanced evidence based practices to McHenry County.

Research shows that probation officers utilizing the IBIS skills can reduce recidivism. A recent meta-analysis of the existing research on the use of core correctional practices in the community supervision settings identified 10 distinct evaluations

which evaluated the use of these practices in probation, parole or pretrial settings. The analysis indicated that officers trained in these practices had caseload recidivism rates that were 10% lower than officers who were not trained.

The goal of community supervision is to divert low risk criminal offenders from local jails and prisons by utilizing proven strategies in order to modify anti-social behaviors and improve outcomes. Taking this step on a departmental wide level is a monumental achievement for the health and safety of our communities. After many years and exhaustive research of the data, we have finally learned that locking people up for low degree offenses and hoping that incarceration will modify behaviors, simply does not work. People who commit violent crimes or are dangerous to society need to be incarcerated, however for those offenders who do not fit in that category, we can do a better job modifying behaviors on the local level, have better long-term outcomes, that cost the taxpayer considerably less than the prison system.

The cost of the training will be \$84,610.00, or \$2,115.00 per probation officer and will last a year. Included with the training is a "train the trainer" segment which will allow the Department of Probation Court Services to train new probation officers in these evidence based practices and bring continuity to the initiative. All costs associated with this contract will be paid by fees collected from individuals who have been sentenced to probation, not McHenry County General Fund dollars.

Court Interpreters Seek Illinois Certification

The Illinois Supreme Court and the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts for the first time has set forth an initiative that all court interpreters will be certified. Other states have had similar requirements for a number of years. The goal for the future is to provide non-English speaking individuals with "Certified Court Interpreters" in order to ensure the same access to justice, as those who speak English.

In order to become a

"Certified Court Interpreter," interpreters must complete orientation and training sessions, written and oral testing. In order for an interpreter to progress through the certification process, the interpreter must pass all three steps with a minimum score of 70%. Testing ensures completeness of conveying the interpreted messages, as well as accuracy of key terminology.

After successfully completing the certification process, interpreters must attend ongoing

training in order to receive continuing education credits. Failure to receive the ongoing educational credits would be grounds for revocation of the certification.

The Court currently employs three Spanish speaking interpreters who assist in all of the courtrooms. In addition to live interpreters, the Court utilizes both telephonic and video interpreters. The 22nd Circuit is proud to provide language access to all courtrooms for all languages.

Leadership of Greater McHenry County Supports the Specialty Courts



Pictured Left to Right—Judge Charles Weech, Jason Sterwerf, Kathy Rauch, Thom Faber

Recently the 22nd Judicial Circuit, Office of Special Projects, which includes both the Mental Health Court and the Drug Court programs, received \$335.00 from the Leadership of Greater McHenry County (LGMC).

LGMC has been part of the specialty court for a couple of years as part of their curriculum and participants in the LGMC program have witnessed the good these programs have done not only for the individual, but for the com-

munities within McHenry County.

The funds will be utilized to purchase gas cards for participants in the program which will assist them in making appointments with treatment, probation and court. The Office of Special Projects values relationships with community organizations such as LGMC and continually looks for such partnerships in order to enhance the programs.

LGMC was created to educate and inspire professionals and to encourage engagement in community leadership. LGMC graduates are equipped to enter leadership roles on boards, commissions and volunteerism.

Thank you LGMC!

Real Color Training for Court Services and Court

Administration—Walt Pesterfield

Real Colors® Training was facilitated by Carmen Rodriguez, Senior Training Specialist, Cook County Adult Probation.

The purpose of the training was to learn skills in order to better understand and appreciate the behaviors, motivations, communication, and learning styles of the people we work with. By understanding the traits and characteristics of each team we can embrace and better utilize the strengths of each team member.

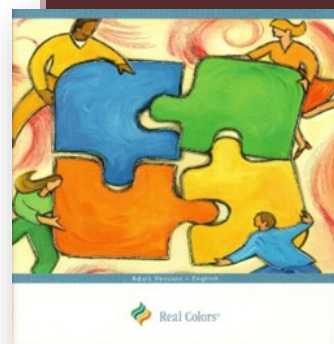
Real Colors is a training program based on a concept of temperament theory developed by David Keirsey. This concept focuses on our individual temperaments and how they affect our attitudes, values and behaviors. The temperaments are identified as Blue, Gold, Orange and Green

colors. Most individuals have a primary core temperament, with a secondary one which can be more prominent in different settings.

The key characteristics of each temperament:

- *Gold:** Tend to be loyal, dependable, organized, thorough, sensible, punctual, and caring.
- *Blue:** Tend to be sympathetic, communicative, compassionate, idealistic, sincere, and imaginative.
- *Orange:** Tend to be witty, spontaneous, generous, optimistic, eager and bold.
- *Green:** Tend to be perfectionistic, analytical, conceptual, cool, calm, inventive and logical.

Approximately 60 people from our department, along with Chief Judge Michael Sullivan, Trial Court Administrator Dan Wallis, and team members from Court Administration participated in the training. Although there was some uncertainty at first, after participating in the training, the majority of the attendees enjoyed the experience. The facilitator of the training was engaging and passionate in sharing this concept, which encouraged great audience participation. Through many small team exercises, each person was able to identify their core temperament/color and learn how this may impact the team with whom they work.



Adult Probation Begins Using Latest Risk Assessment Tool—

Walt Pesterfield

McHenry County Court Services, Adult Division Probation has recently adopted the most current risk assessment tool for adult offenders that is available. The LSCM-I is the current version of the standard AQIC approved assessment tool and McHenry County Probation is the first department in

the State to implement the tool.

The assessment is completely web based and assists Probation Officers in providing the best quality service to the Court and the Community for Presentence Investigations and Offender case management.

Division Supervisors Seth Krause and Steve Wisniewski along with Senior Probation Officers Karen McCauley and Rob Tobin attended 5 days of intensive instructor training in Boise Idaho at Boise State University with Dr. Charlene Taylor and are now certified instructors. This will allow the department to train new probation staff well into the foreseeable future.

One Day, One Trial is the New Norm for Jury Service

Since the implementation of Senate Bill 3075, which established higher rates of payment to jurors, there has been a significant increase in the costs associated to jury service. In the first 6 months of 2015, the court spent \$65,945.00 in juror related expenses; since June 1st, the date the new law went into effect, the court has spent an additional \$51,112.00, *almost what was spent in the first six months of the year, in just 45*

days.

Obviously, this has made a tremendous impact on the budget of the court, which is primarily funded from appropriations from the McHenry County General Fund. In an effort to mitigate the impact, the Court has adopted a one day, one trial jury service. Essentially if you are called for jury duty you will serve for only one day; unless you are seated on jury, then you will serve for the entire trial.

This practice helps to reduce costs for subsequent days of service, which are paid at a higher rate.

In partnership with the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office, Grand Jury has been reduced from 2 days per week, to one day per week.

There is pending legislation which will amend the current statute. However little progress has been made in the Illinois State Legislature.



Jury Commission Continues to Seek Current Magazines

Every Monday, 160 jurors are summoned for jury duty. The Jury Commission tries to supply magazines for the jurors while they are waiting. The court does not subscribe to any magazines, newspapers, or periodicals, but tries to secure them through other means. Many of the maga-

zines are outdated.

If you have a stack of magazines that you would like to donate to the Jury Commission, it would be very much appreciated. When you're done reading your favorite monthly magazine, please think about dropping it off at the Jury Commission.



I WANT YOUR



From the Desk of the Court Administrator, —Dan Wallis

Team Members Decide to Walk to Argentina????



YES- you read correctly.

Members of Court Administration, Court Security and Court Reporting Services are walking to Argentina, literally one step at a time...

In the spirit of getting fit, we have formed a step relay team of individuals who are monitoring their daily steps. Daily steps have been compiled and so far we have combined for a total of 8,049,403 steps.

Kathryn Birchfield came up with the idea when she noticed that several of us were wearing the FitBit devices to track our steps. From her idea the Court Administration Step Relay Team was born and now she is

the team statistician, destination planner, and overall cheerleader.

The team has 13 members and averages over **100,000 steps per day**. The team consists of Agnes Pena, Bob Harper, Bridget Diedrich, Judith Roach, Judy Carlson, Karen Rossbach, Kathryn Birchfield, Margaret Ruiz, Mary Foley, Mary Weishaar, Monica Minnis and Thomas Cynor.

To date our steps would have taken us to Chicago, Graceland, New York City, Hollywood, Mexico, Alaska and we are currently heading to Paris, France. We just need to hit the



8,284,000 step mark, so we are close. Next will be Diamond Head and ultimately to Argentina at 11,576,000 steps. Kathryn is a great guide and we never get lost. She posts our destinations in the Court Administration break room.

You may ask, "why would we do such a thing." Simple, two things come to mind.

First, overall health and well-being. I am happy to report that I am down 20 pounds from when we started.

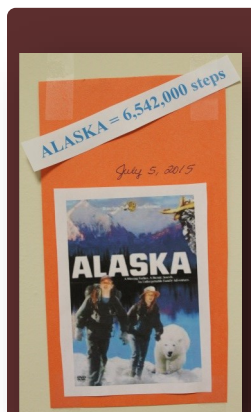
Secondly, we can do more together than if we were trying to do this by ourselves. This lesson applies to everything that we do. Our sums are bigger and better than our individual parts, the very definition of synergy. In the context of organizational behavior, following a cohesive group is more than the sum of its parts. Synergy is the ability of a group to outperform even its best individual member. Another way to put it is that synergy means that teamwork will produce an overall better result than if each person within the group were working toward the same goal individually. This translates into a cohesive group due to the mutual positive attitudes among members of the group. Organization behavior studies demonstrate that interaction and communication increase followed by group member satisfaction increases as the group provides friendship and support of each member.

The Court Administration Step Relay Team is a huge success on multiple levels. However, we couldn't get everyone together for the picture, they were busy walking to Argentina.

Well done Kathryn!!!



Not pictured: Bob Harper, Judy Carlson, Karen Rossbach, Mary Foley, Thomas Cynor





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Marisela Foley, Deputy Court Administrator

**The mission of the 22nd
Judicial Circuit of
McHenry County is to be
the guardian of life, lib-
erty and property to all
seeking access to justice,
by adhering to practices
that ensure equality,
fairness and confidence
in the judiciary.**

